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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/560,373	04/28/2000	Gregory Lucius Meredith	MS147248.1	3570

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EXAMINER

KISS, ERIC B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2192

DATE MAILED: 09/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/560,373

Applicant(s)

MEREDITH ET AL.

Examiner

Eric B. Kiss

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 28-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 28-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The reply filed 17 June 2005 has been received and entered. Claims 1-22 and 28-33 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 17 June 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's arguments traversing the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, see the additional explanation provided in the rejection below.

3. The rejection of claims 1-22 and 28-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is withdrawn in view of Applicant's showing under 35 U.S.C. §103(c) that the *Ambler et al.* reference and the claimed invention were under an obligation of assignment to Microsoft Corporation at the time the invention was made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-22 and 28-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 2192

Claims 1, 7, and 28 each recite limitations involving “a SLANG programming language”. Such a programming language is not defined by the specification in a concrete manner necessary to define an ascertainable scope for the claims. It is noted that in each instance throughout the specification, SLANG, as a programming language, is only defined by example (see, for example, p. 20, lines 8-9, “Fig. 6 illustrates an example of the SLANG programming language syntax...”). While the Extended Backus-Naur Form illustrated in Fig. 6 may be capable of formally defining such a SLANG programming language (a Backus-Naur form is a well known metalanguage tool for formally defining the syntax of a language), the specification falls short of limiting it to such, and accordingly, the metes and bounds of “a SLANG programming language” are not properly defined.

The issue raised by the Examiner is not whether undue experimentation would be required to practice the claimed invention (*i.e.*, the enablement requirement under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph). Rather, the issue here is the meaning of the adjective “SLANG” in the context of the recited claim limitations (*i.e.*, what exactly **does** constitute a SLANG programming language? And conversely, what **does not** constitute a SLANG programming language?).

It is only when the specification provides definitions for terms appearing in the claims that the specification can be used in interpreting claim language. In *re* Vogel, 422 F.2d 438, 441, 164 USPQ 619, 622 (CCPA 1970).

An applicant is entitled to be his or her own lexicographer and may rebut the presumption that claim terms are to be given their ordinary and customary meaning by clearly setting forth a definition of the term that is different from its ordinary and customary meaning(s). See In *re*

Art Unit: 2192

Paulsen, 30 F.3d 1475, 1480, 31 USPQ2d 1671, 1674 (Fed. Cir. 1994) (inventor may define specific terms used to describe invention, but must do so "with reasonable clarity, deliberateness, and precision" and, if done, must "set out his uncommon definition in some manner within the patent disclosure' so as to give one of ordinary skill in the art notice of the change" in meaning) (quoting *Intellicall, Inc. v. Phonometrics, Inc.*, 952 F.2d 1384, 1387-88, 21 USPQ2d 1383, 1386 (Fed. Cir. 1992)). Where an explicit definition is provided by the applicant for a term, that definition will control interpretation of the term as it is used in the claim. *Toro Co. v. White Consolidated Industries Inc.*, 199 F.3d 1295, 1301, 53 USPQ2d 1065, 1069 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (meaning of words used in a claim is not construed in a "lexicographic vacuum, but in the context of the specification and drawings.").

Any special meaning assigned to a term "must be sufficiently clear in the specification that any departure from common usage would be so understood by a person of experience in the field of the invention." *Multiform Desiccants Inc. v. Medzam Ltd.*, 133 F.3d 1473, 1477, 45 USPQ2d 1429, 1432 (Fed. Cir. 1998).

It is again noted that Applicant does not explicitly set forth any definition of "a SLANG programming language" in the specification. Further, Applicant does not suggest (or provide any reasonable evidence to support) that such a SLANG programming language is well known in the art. As noted above, the specification only sets forth examples of what may constitute a SLANG programming language (see, for example, p. 20, lines 8-9, "Fig. 6 illustrates **an example** of the SLANG programming language syntax..." [emphasis added]). Again, since this cited portion of the specification embraces a broader (and not clearly-defined) interpretation of SLANG, it cannot provide a reasonably clear, deliberate, and precise definition.

Art Unit: 2192

Accordingly, as 1) “a SLANG programming language” is not defined in the claims, 2) no appropriate definition may be found in the specification that can be properly read into the claims, and 3) no art-accepted meaning of “a SLANG programming language” has been found, the Examiner maintains that the scope of the claims is unascertainable and the affected claims are indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claims 2-6, 8-22, and 29-33 are rejected based on their dependence from claims 1 and 7, as set forth above.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2192

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Eric B. Kiss whose telephone number is (571) 272-3699. The Examiner can normally be reached on Tue. - Fri., 7:00 am - 4:30 pm. The Examiner can also be reached on alternate Mondays.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Tuan Dam, can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

EBK/ESK
August 22, 2005



TUAN DAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER